

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-15, 17-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 10, 19, and 20 are amended by the present amendment. Support for amended Claims 1, 10, 19, and 20 can be found in the original specification.¹ Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action the Specification, Claims 1-6, 8-15, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Suzuki (US Publication 2002/0033964).

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-6, 8-15, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), independent Claims 1, 10, 19 and 20 are amended to recite features not taught or rendered obvious by the applied reference.

Briefly summarizing, Claim 1 is amended to recite an image forming apparatus comprising an operation panel and hardware resources used for image formation, including a scanner engine, *an application, and a platform that exists between the application and the hardware resources. The platform includes an OS and at least one control service to control an execution of each requested processing of the hardware resources according to a function call from the application*, wherein interprocess communication is performed between the control service and the application, the application causing the image forming apparatus to function as a display part, which is configured to display a number of destinations for data scanned by the scanner engine, a scanning process part configured to cause the scanner engine to scan a document to produce scanned data, and a transfer part configured to transfer the scanned data to one or more selected transfer destinations. The image forming apparatus further includes a print processor part configured to receive the

¹ Claims 1, 10, 19, and 20 are supported at least by Applicants' Figure 2 and associated text.

scanned data from a storing area of the selected transfer destination and print the scanned data.

Turning now to the applied reference, Suzuki describes an image administering system, for distributing and processing a copy job efficiently. Suzuki sets out to address two problems: if a copy job of a document is read in by a scanner in one office and is immediately transferred to another office, the transfer duration may be unacceptably prolonged depending on the load of the network;² and how a copy job can be efficiently distributed and processed.³ To address these problems, Suzuki describes a distributed processing system and an image administering system in which a plurality of image outputting systems having a scanner for reading an image of a document, a plurality of printers, a printer server and a file system are distributed and connected through a network.⁴ Suzuki is concerned with providing an administration apparatus and an electronic filing method.⁵

However, Applicants submit that Suzuki fails to teach or suggest an image forming apparatus comprising an operation panel and hardware resources used for image formation, including a scanner engine, *an application, and a platform that exists between the application and the hardware resources, the platform including an OS and at least one control service to control an execution of each requested processing of the hardware resources according to a function call from the application*, as recited in Claim 1. In fact, Suzuki at most describes a server with a controller and a memory in Figure 4, but in no way even suggests the features recited in Claim 1.

Claims 10, 19, and 20 are amended to recite analogous features to Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 10, 19, and 20 (and all associated

² Suzuki, paragraph [0006], lines 2-5.

³ Suzuki, paragraph [0007], lines 5-6.

⁴ Suzuki, paragraph [0002], lines 6-11.

⁵ Suzuki, [0012].

dependent claims) patentably define over Suzuki, and request that the rejections of Claims 1-6, 8-15, and 17-20 we under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Further, Applicants submit that Claims 5 and 14 patentably define over Suzuki. Claim 5 recites, *inter alia*, that a type of recognized data is obtained by ***performing character recognition process on the scanned data***. The outstanding Office Action asserts that step 176 of Figure 7b of Suzuki recites this feature. However, Suzuki merely states that “at step 176 the scanner unit 12A is controlled to read an image recorded in a set document by a single action; that is, a series of image data re read as common image data and are stored as electronic data in the memory,”⁶ which in no way pertains to ***performing character recognition process on the scanned data***. Claim 14 recites analogous features.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5 and 14 patentably define over Suzuki.

⁶ Suzuki, paragraph [0125].

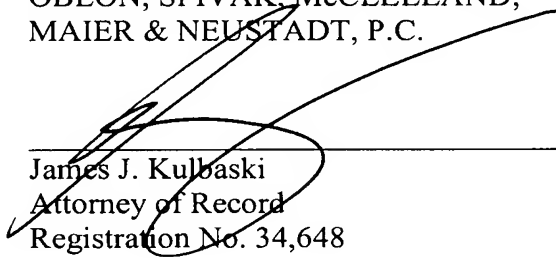
Consequently, in view of the present amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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